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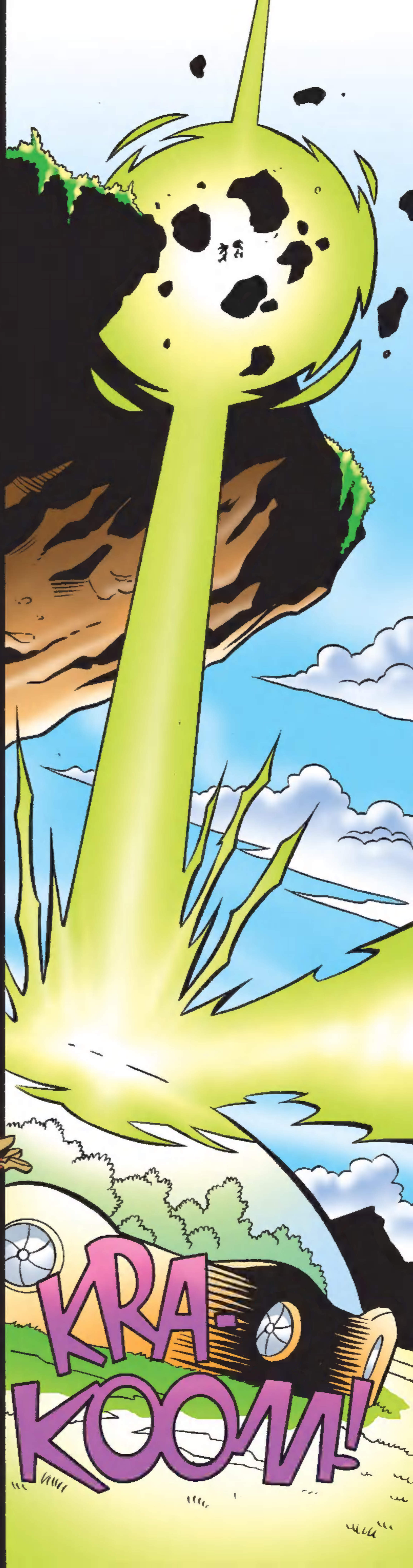
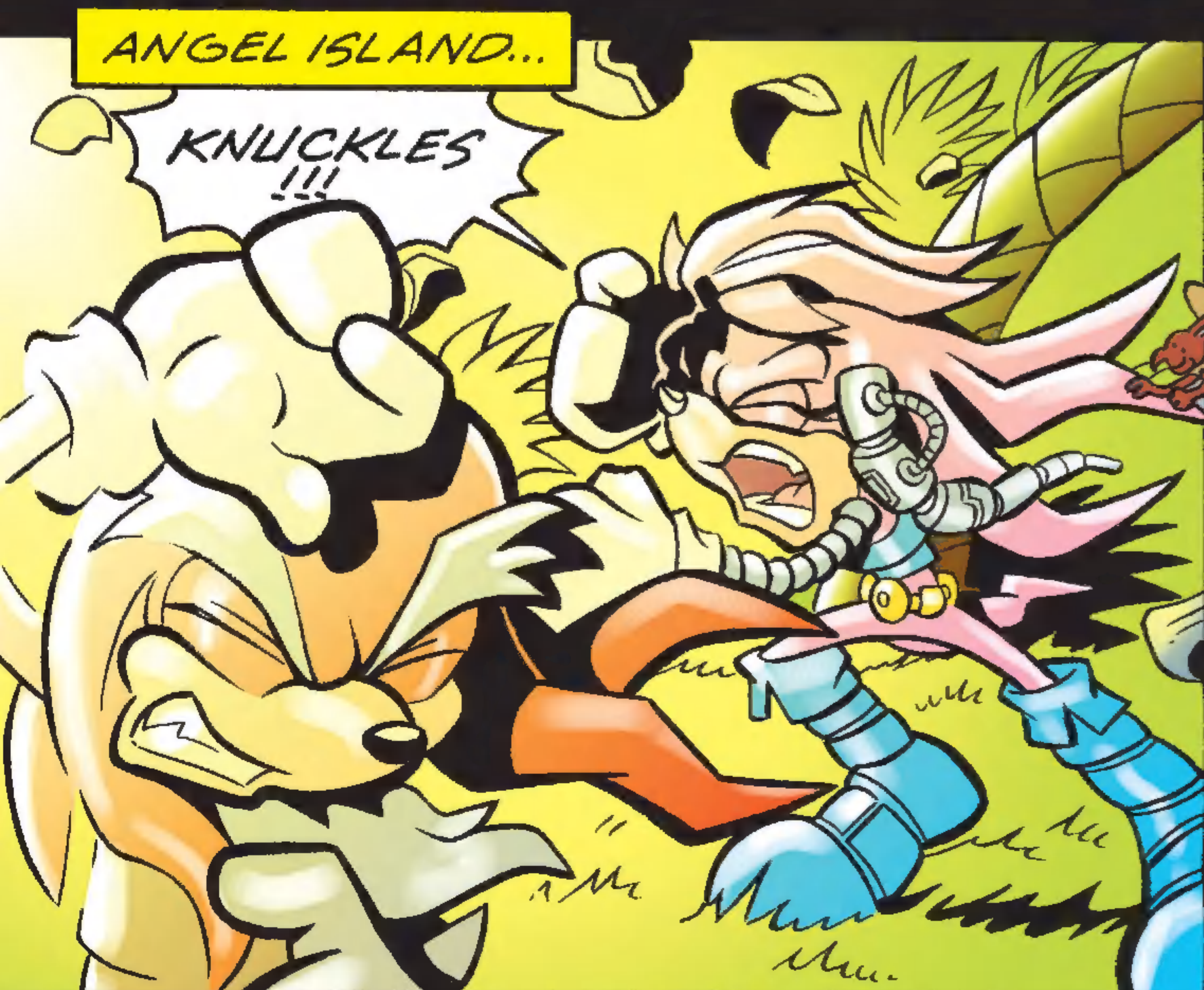
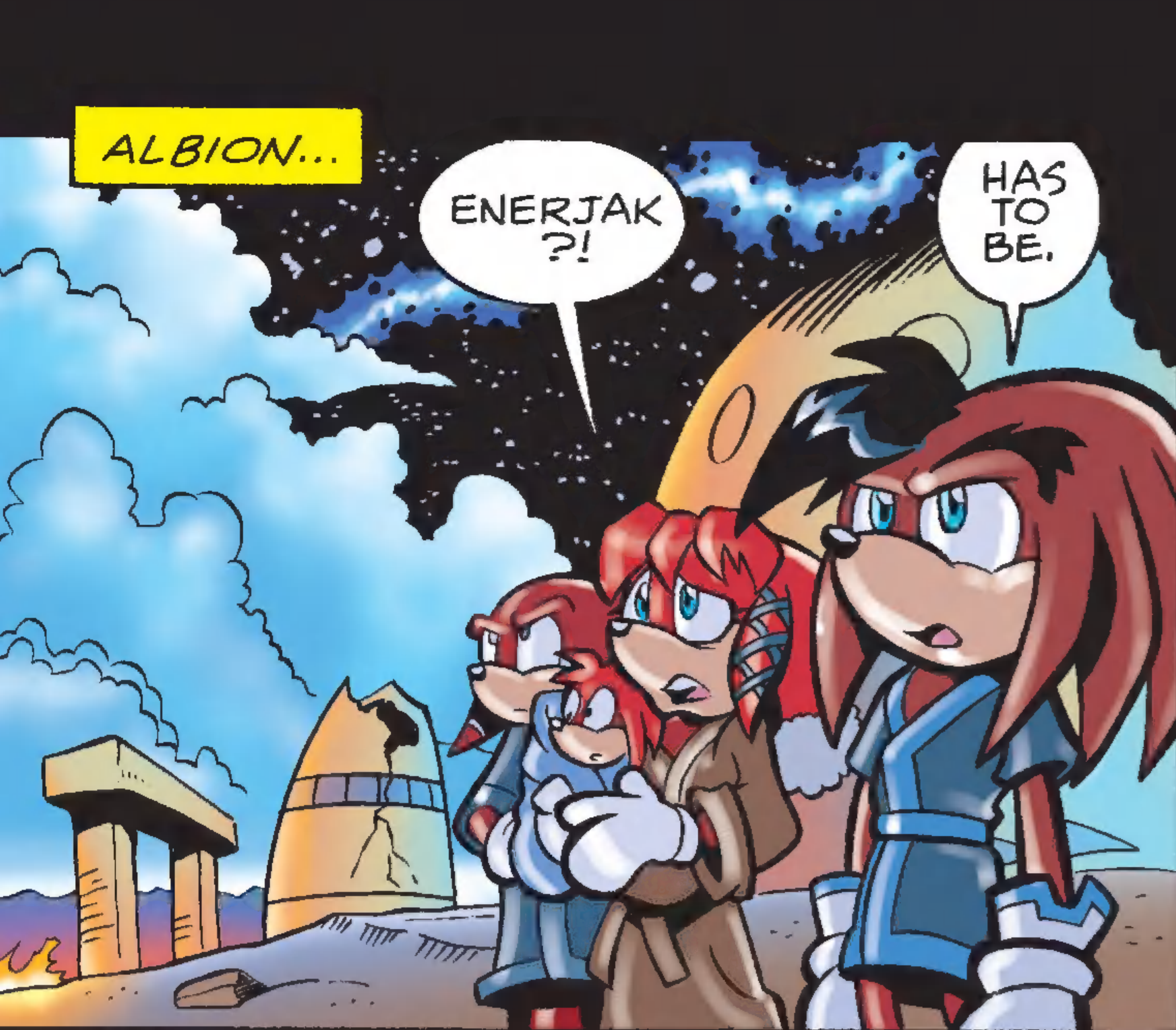


SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG



Travis Bradley!
HUN
SER
ER



CHAOS ANGEL

YOU
DARE TO
USE MY
POWER
AGAINST
ME?!

YOU
BETTER
BELIEVE
IT!

JULIE-SU
KNUCKLES' LOVE


SUPER SONIC
HERO

LOCKE
KNUCKLES' FATHER

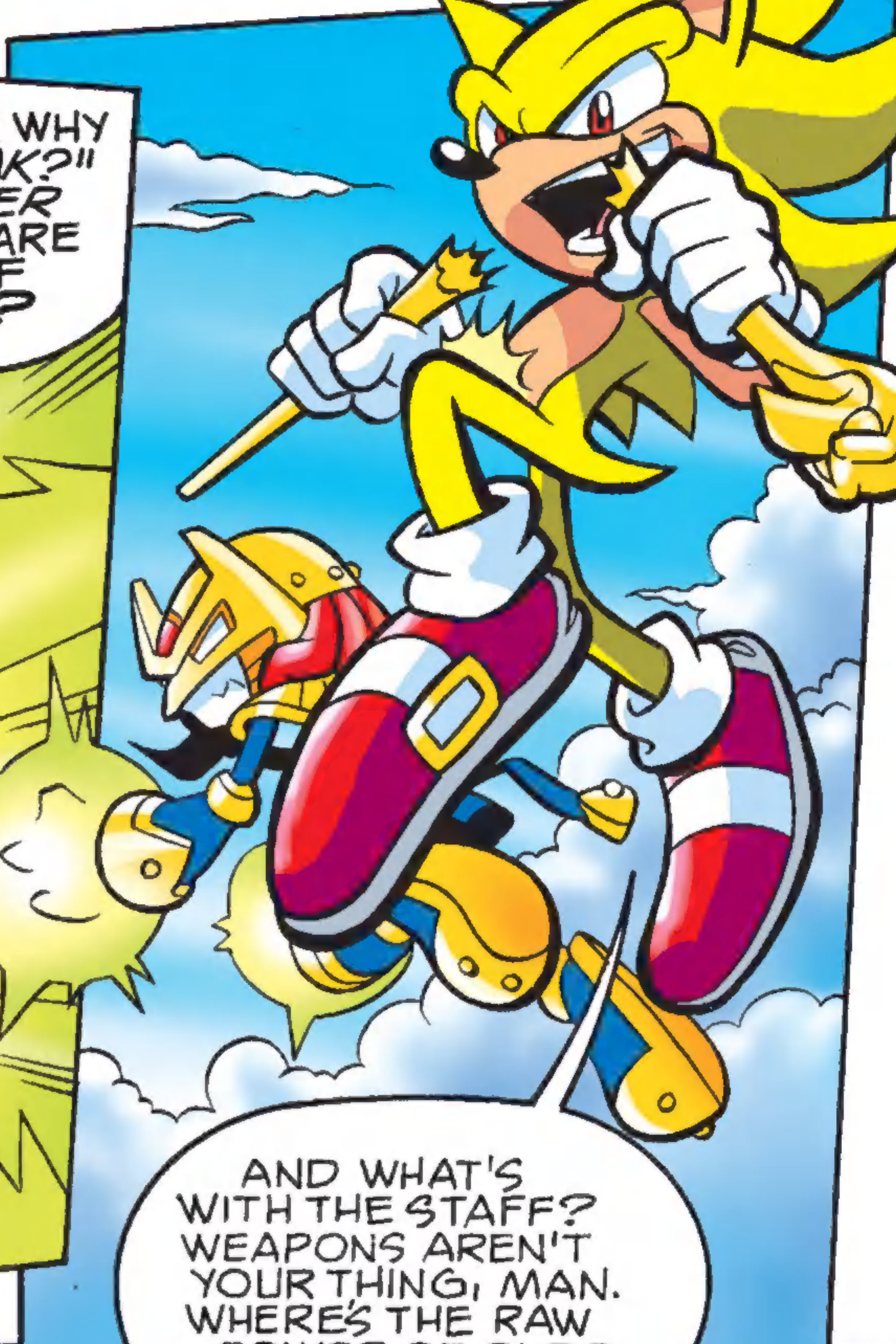
ENERJAK
KNUCKLES TURNED VILLAIN

DR. FINITEVUS
CREATOR

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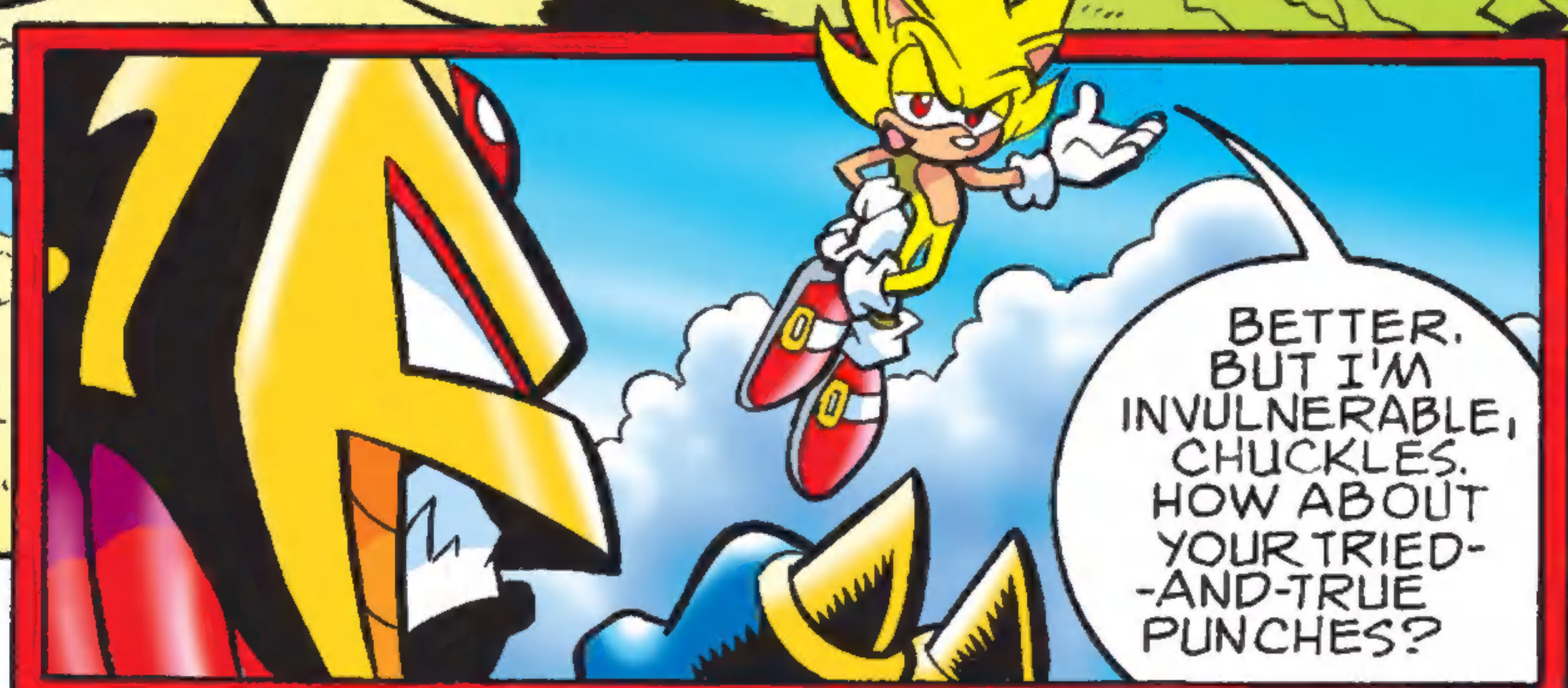
C'MON, KNUCKLES! WHY
TURN INTO "EVERJAK?"
WHAT ABOUT "HYPER
KNUCKLES?" OR ARE
YOU AFRAID OF
BEING PINK?



AND WHAT'S
WITH THE STAFF?
WEAPONS AREN'T
YOUR THING, MAN.
WHERE'S THE RAW
POWER OF OLD?



HERE!



BETTER,
BUT I'M
INVULNERABLE,
CHUCKLES.
HOW ABOUT
YOUR TRIED-
-AND-TRUE
PUNCHES?



WHOA!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE HE
SURVIVED
THAT!

HE WON'T
FOREVER. NONE
OF US WILL. THE
FOOL SHOULDN'T
HAVE STOPPED
ME...

OH, WOULD YOU
STOP IT?! YOU'VE
HAD PLENTY OF
CHANCES TO
DESTROY THE
SON YOU HATE!



I-I DON'T
HATE
KNUCKLES!
B-BUT HE'S
BECOME--!



EVERYTHING
WE WORKED
TO CREATE. IT WAS
OUR TRAINING AND
YOUR EXPERIMENTS
ON HIS DNA AND
CHAOS ENERGY
THAT LEAD TO THIS.
BUT HE IS NOT A
MISTAKE TO BURY
LOCKE. WE ARE AS
MUCH TO BLAME,
IF NOT MORE.



COME ON,
ARCHIMEDES. LET'S
SEE IF WE CAN
FIND A WAY TO
HELP SONIC...

BAMF

...AND THE
GUARDIAN
WE LOVE
ENOUGH TO
RESCUE!



WHAT NOW, SLEUTH?

DOCTOR FINITEVUS ONLY PAID US TO KEEP WATCH OVER THAT WEAPON.*

WE'RE DONE HERE, DESTRUCTIX. FALL BACK.

*SEE LAST ISSUE.

SCOURGE? AREN'T YOU COMING?

ACTUALLY, SWEETS, I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.

SEE, LAST TIME I TANGLED WITH SONIC**, HE SAID SOME STUFF. IT GOT ME THINKING... ABOUT WHO I AM NOW. ABOUT WHAT I CAN REALLY DO.

*FLASH BACK TO STH # 172!



SO I SUPER-CHARGED MY WARP RING TO TAKE US WHERE I CAN GET THOSE ANSWERS.

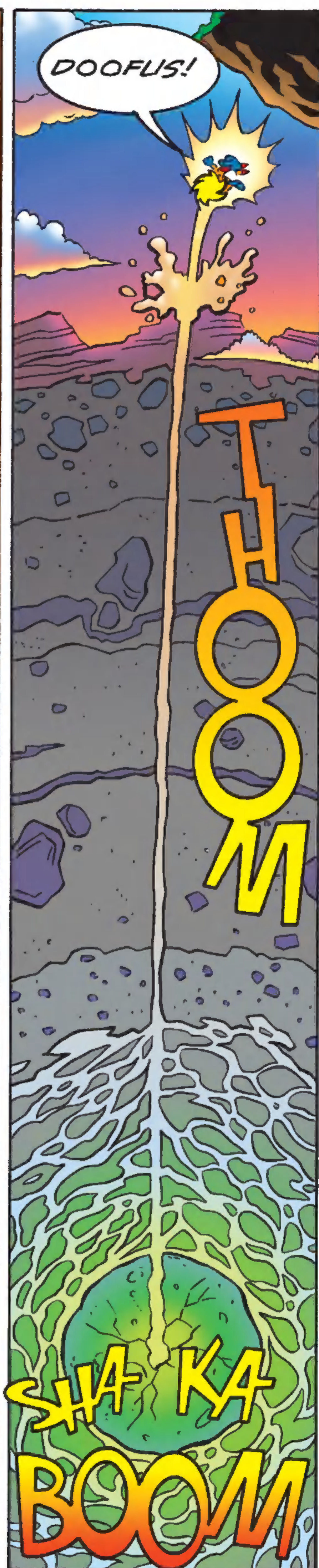
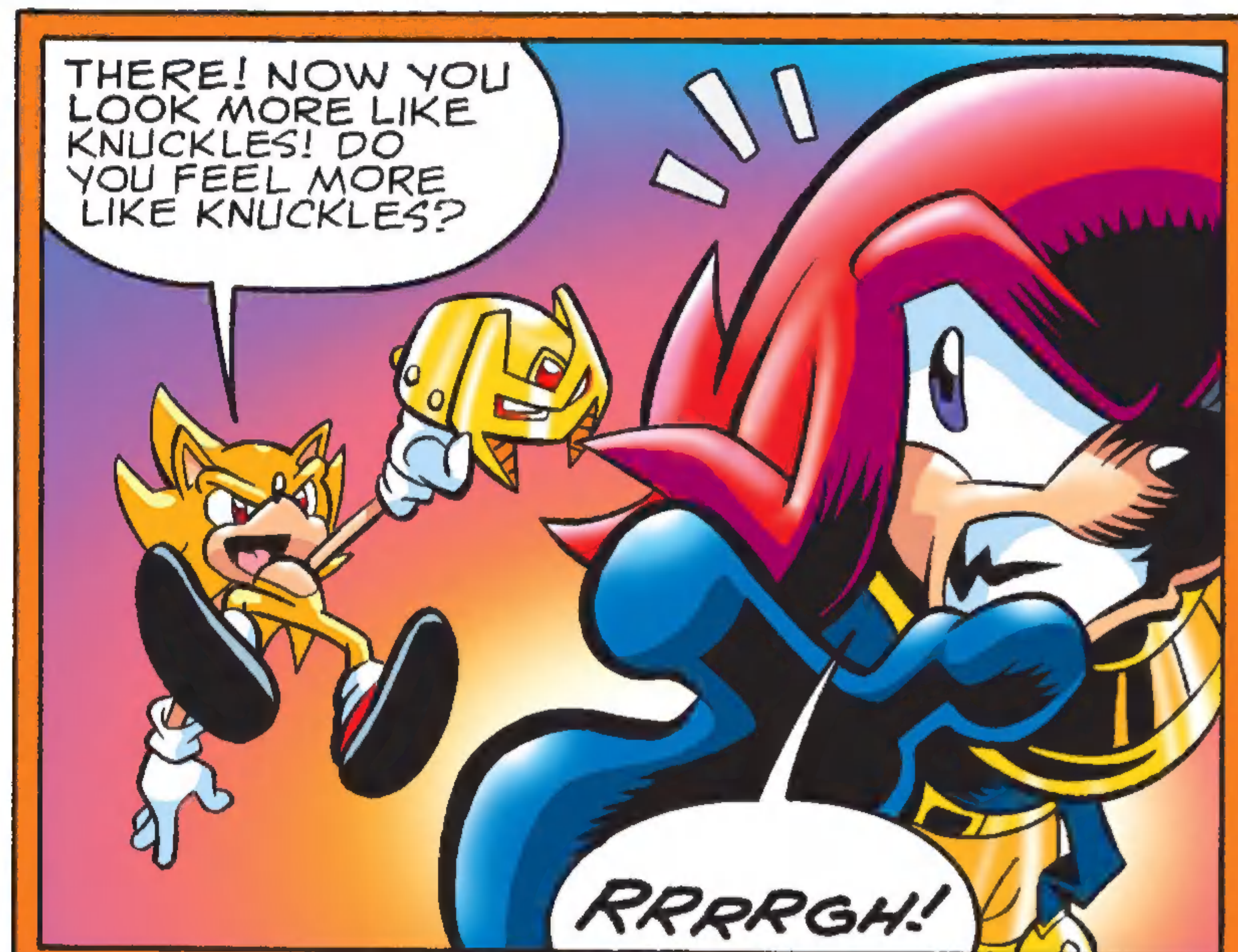
I DON'T KNOW, SCOURGE... LEAVE MOBIUS?

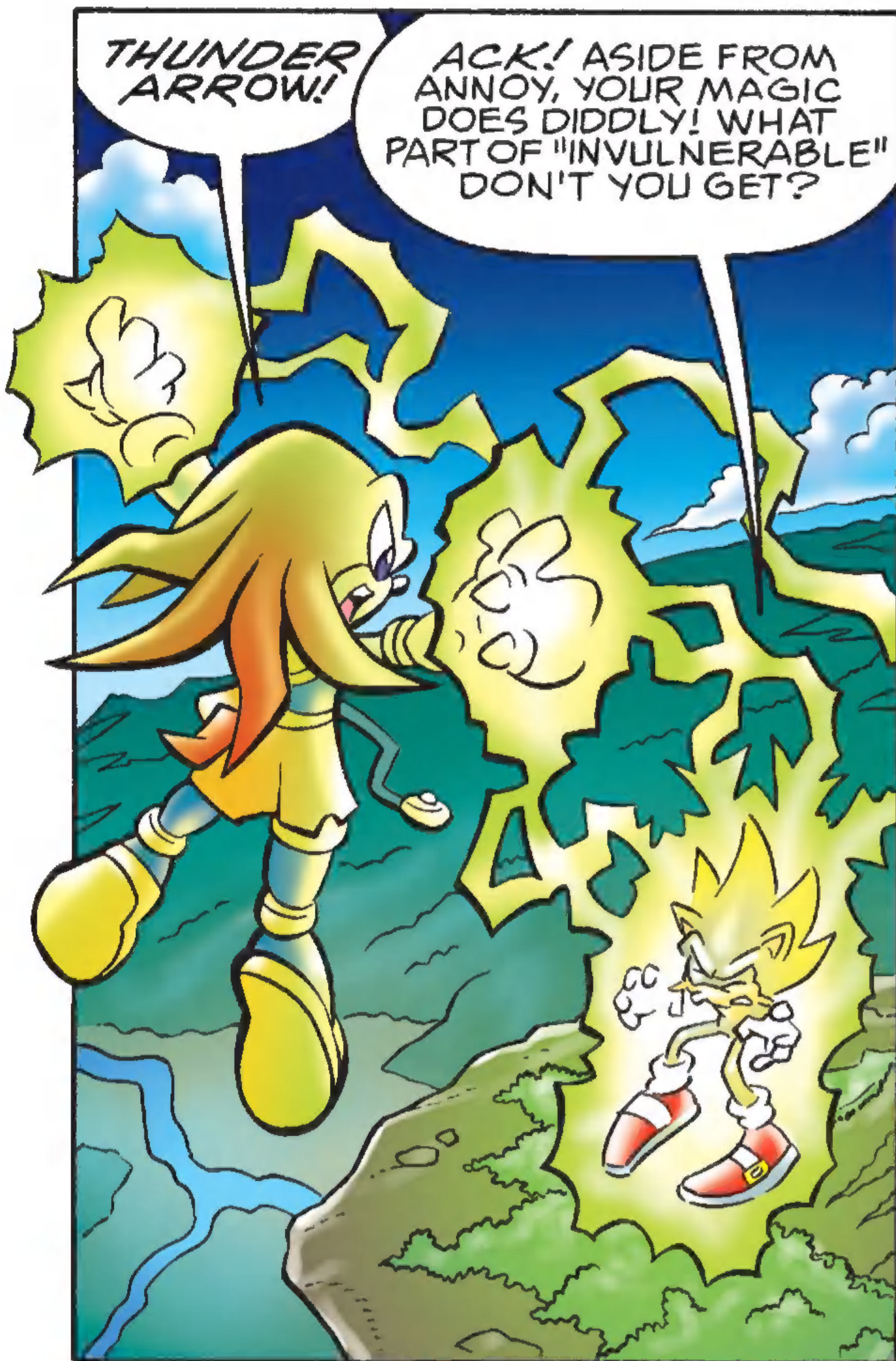
LOOK AT 'EM, FIONA. A FIGHT LIKE THIS IS GOING TO TEAR THE PLANET APART. FINITEVUS PROBABLY PLANNED IT THIS WAY. THERE'S NOWHERE ON MOBIUS TO RUN TO.

COME ON, BABE. IT'LL BE FUN!

IT ALWAYS IS WITH YOU.

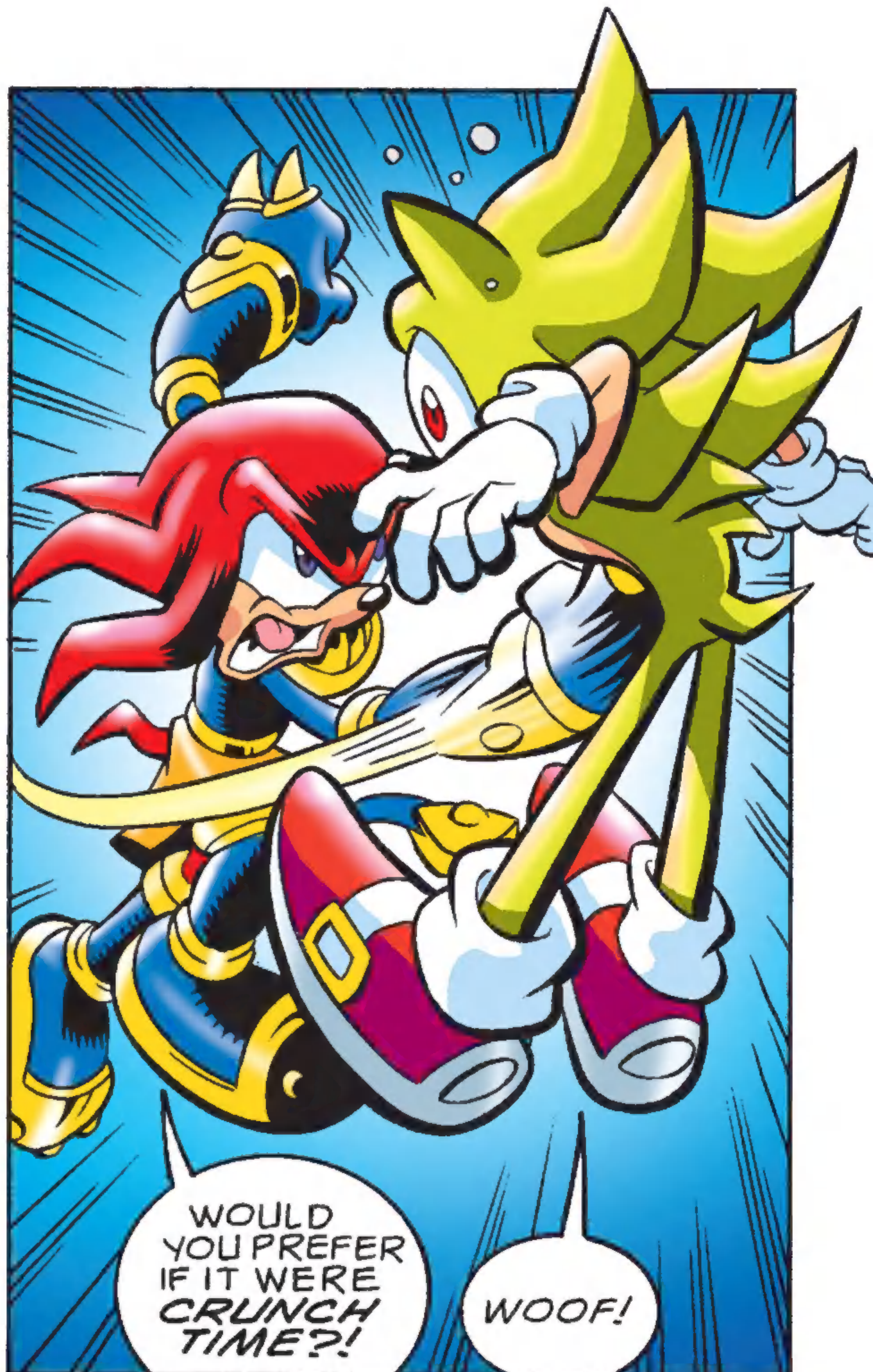
FWASH





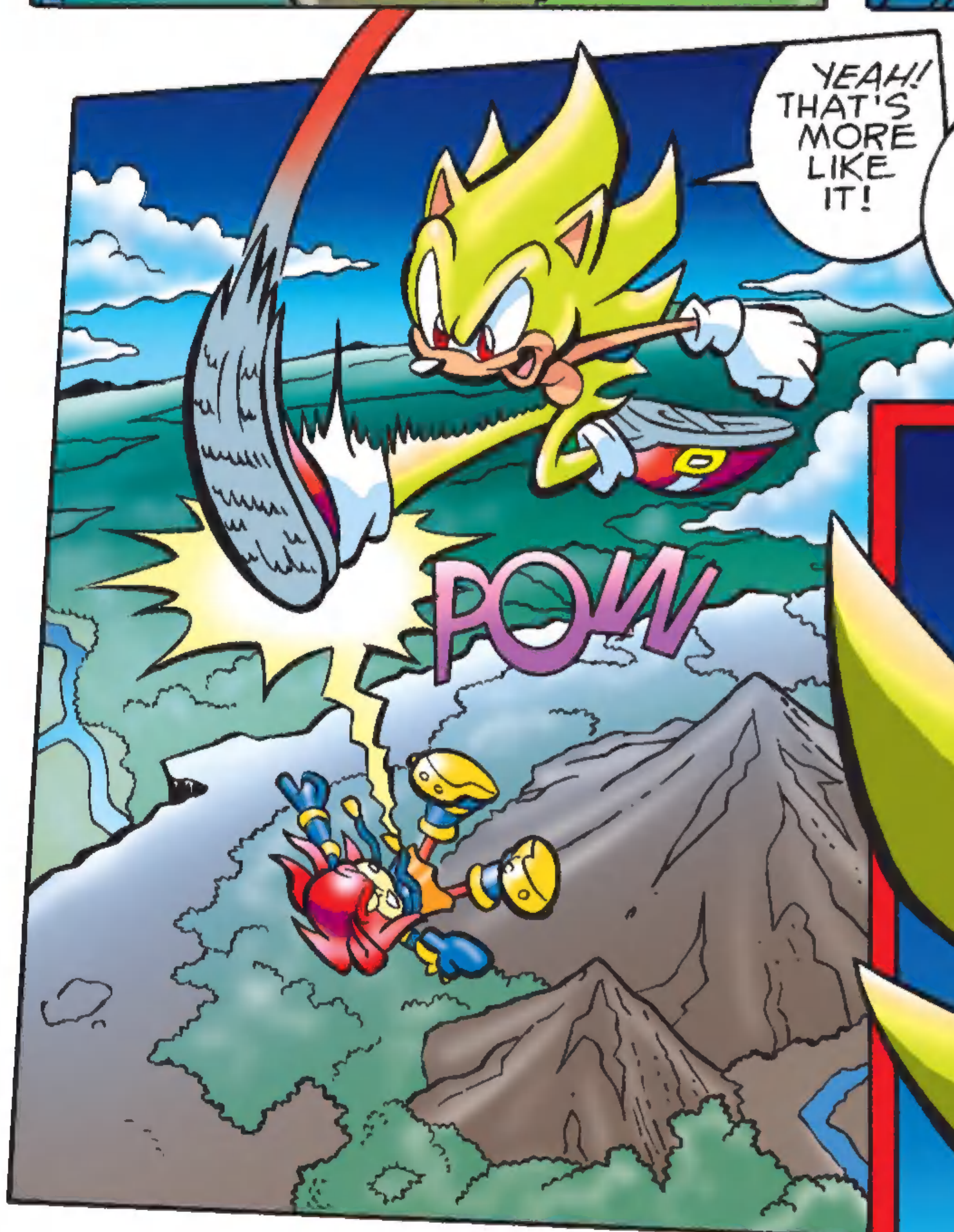
THUNDER
ARROW!

ACK! ASIDE FROM
ANNOY, YOUR MAGIC
DOES DIDDLY! WHAT
PART OF "INVULNERABLE"
DON'T YOU GET?



WOULD
YOU PREFER
IF IT WERE
**CRUNCH
TIME?!**

WOOF!

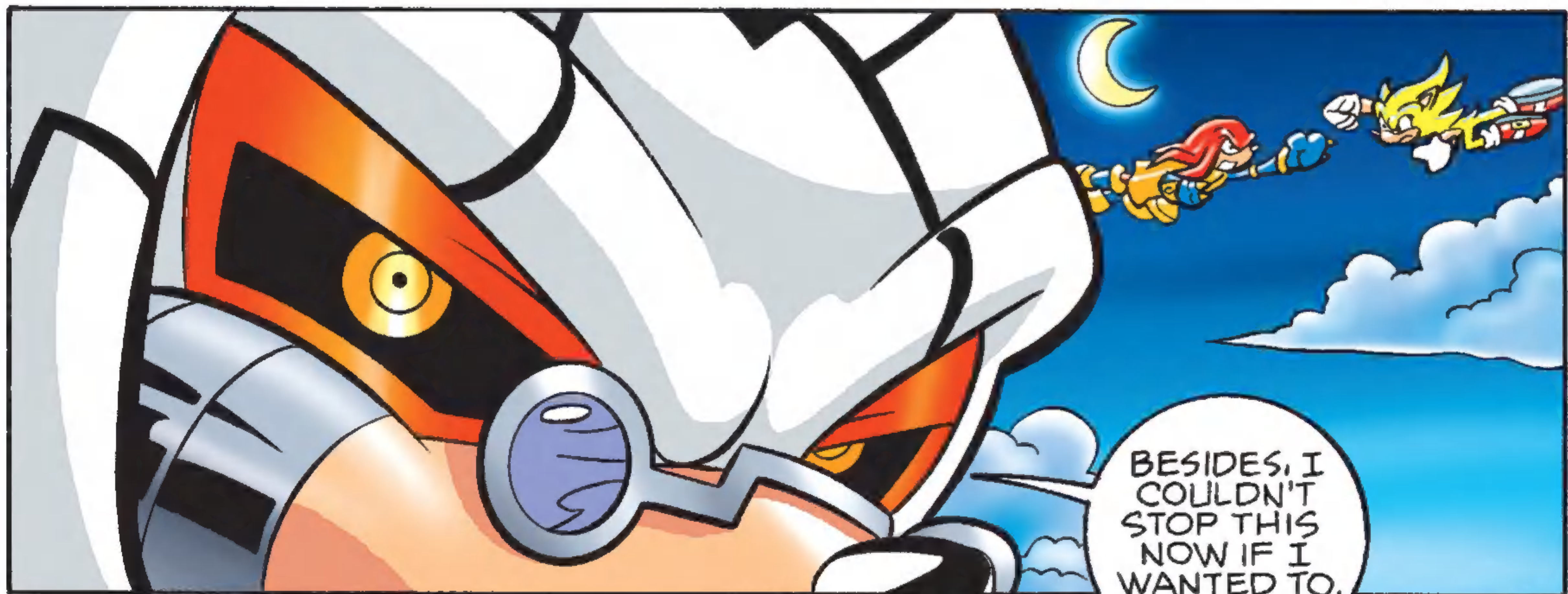


YEAH!
THAT'S
MORE
LIKE
IT!

I DON'T GET IT.
MY POSITIVE AURA
SHOULD'VE BROKEN
THE DARK MAGIC BY
NOW.* I CAN SEE
SOME PROGRESS,
BUT IT'S NOT
ENOUGH!

*JUST LIKE
HE DID IN THE
CLASSIC
STH #84.





THE *HEX* I PLACED
UPON THE MASTER
EMERALD BINDS IT
TO MY WILL. THE
MINUTE KNUCKLES
TAPPED INTO ITS
POWER, HIS
INTENTIONS
BECAME BENT
TO MY IDEALS.*

*AS REMEMBERED
IN *STH* # 181.

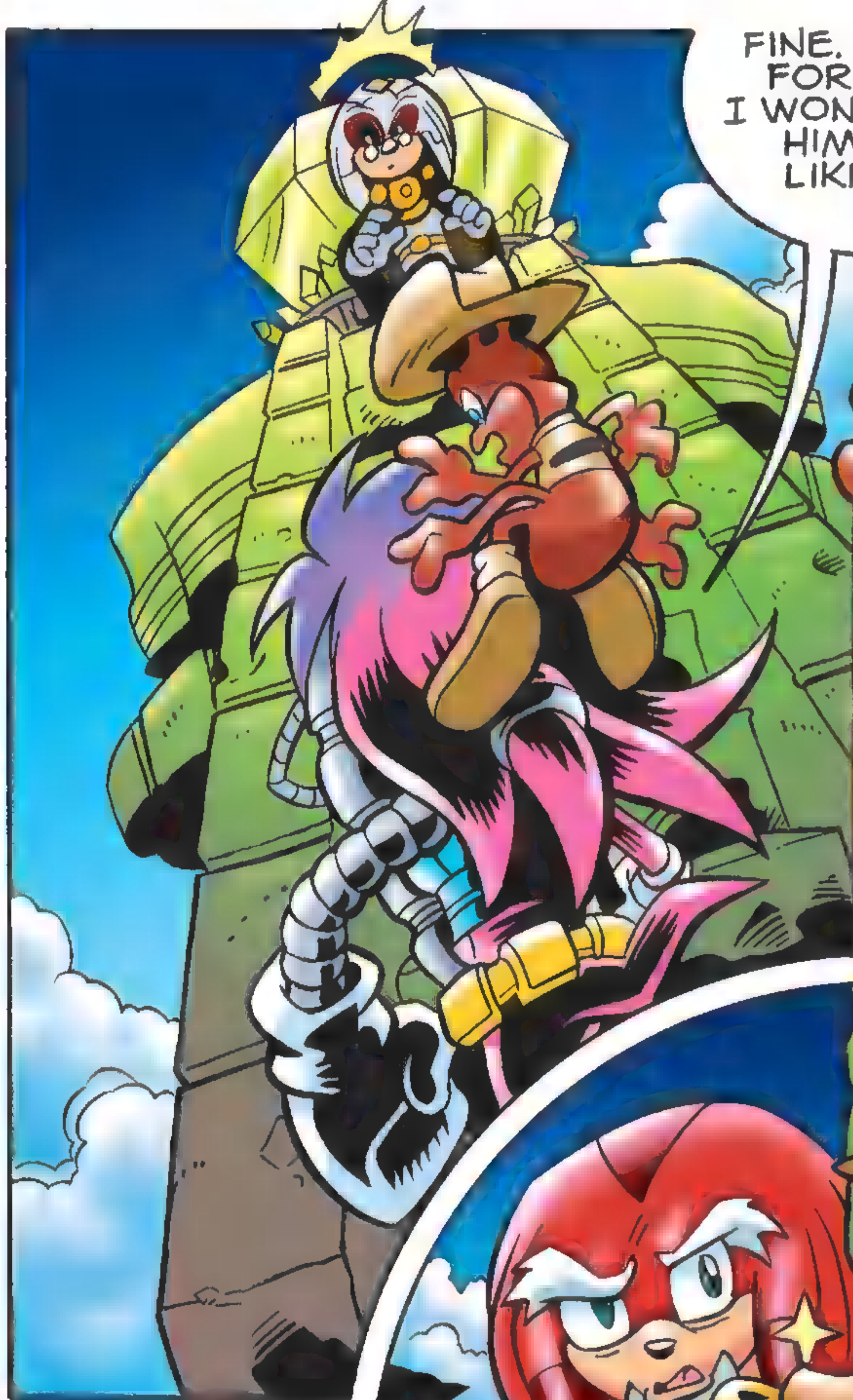
I ADMIT I'M
SURPRISED THAT
SONIC COULD USE
ITS POWER WITH-
OUT ANY EFFECT.
I WOULD LOVE TO
DISSECT HIM TO
FIND OUT WHY,
BUT HIS BATTLE
WITH ENERJAK
WILL SUIT MY
GRAND DESIGN
WELL ENOUGH.

I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
YOUR STUPID PLAN!
YOU MADE THE
HEX, NOW
BREAK IT.

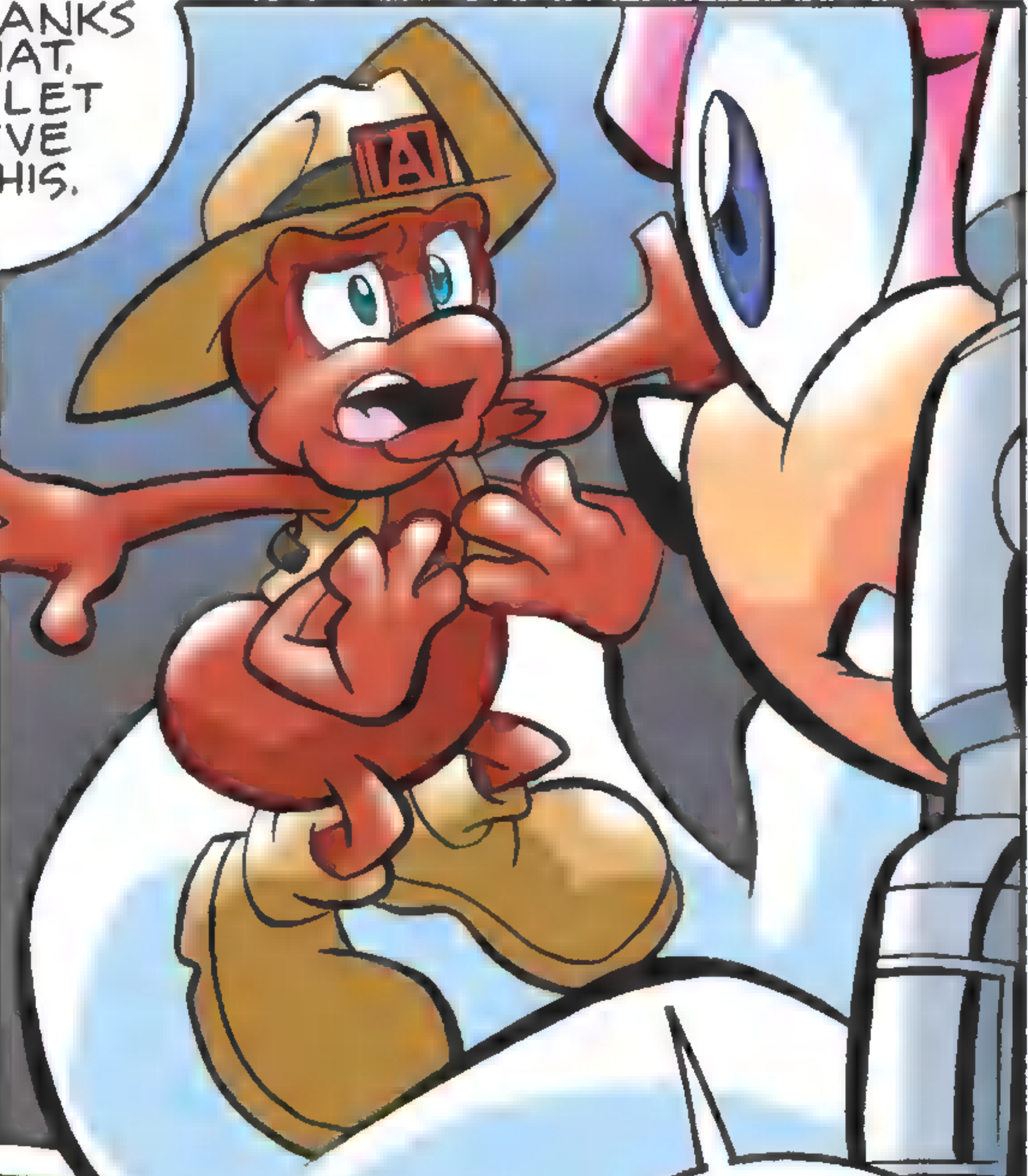
I ALREADY SAID
I COULDN'T IF I
WANTED TO. I
EXPECTED A
PLUCKY
RESISTANCE TO
"SAVE" YOUR
BELOVED
KNUCKLES.

SO I
"LOCKED"
THE HEX.


TO BREAK
THE HEX AND
MY CONTROL,
SOMEONE MUST
SACRIFICE
THEIR OWN
LIFE!



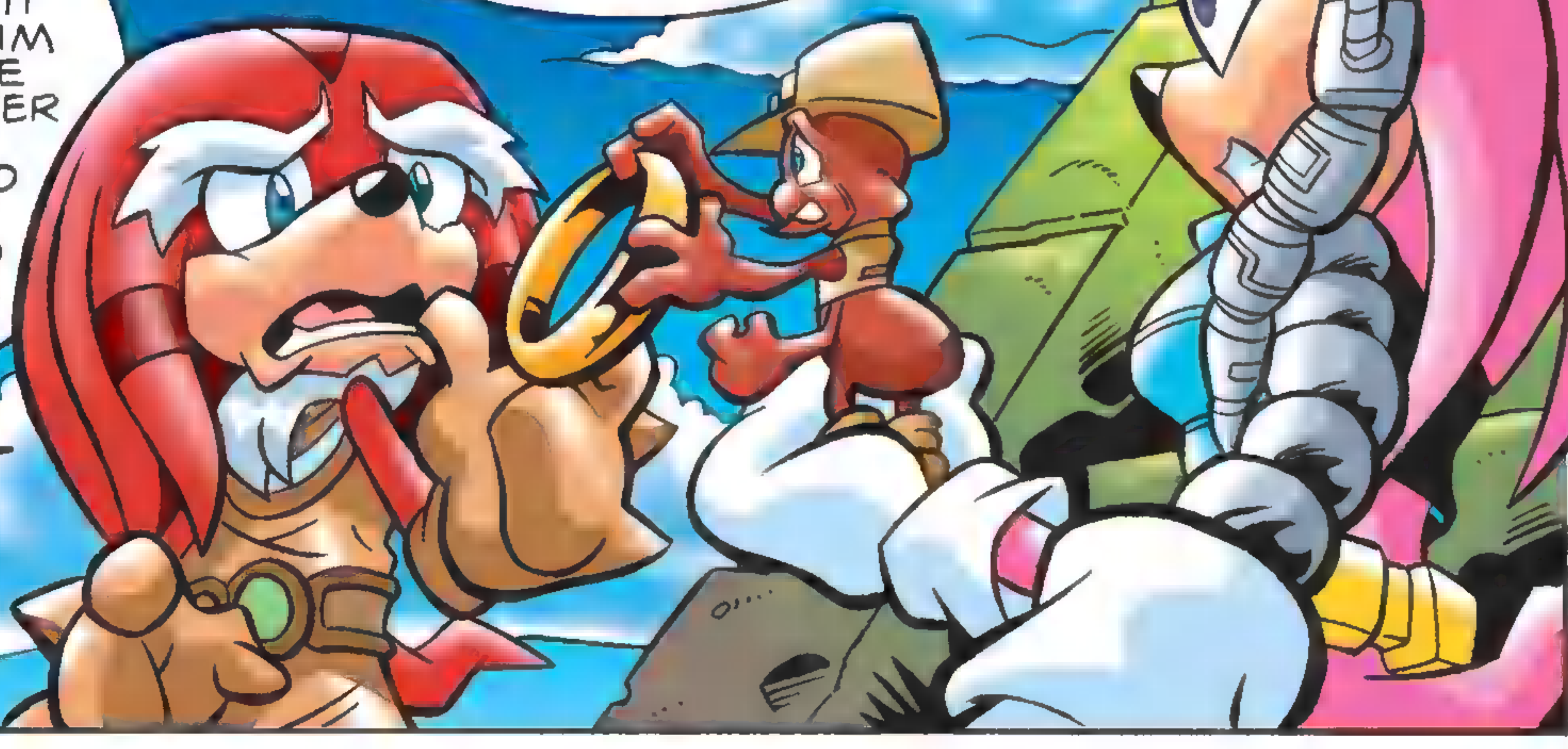
FINE. THANKS
FOR THAT,
I WON'T LET
HIM LIVE
LIKE THIS.



NO YOU
DON'T, SHEILA.
THE FAILURES
OF THE STUDENT
ARE THOSE OF
THE TEACHER.
YOU HAVE
YOUR LIVES
AHEAD OF YOU.
I WILL GO.

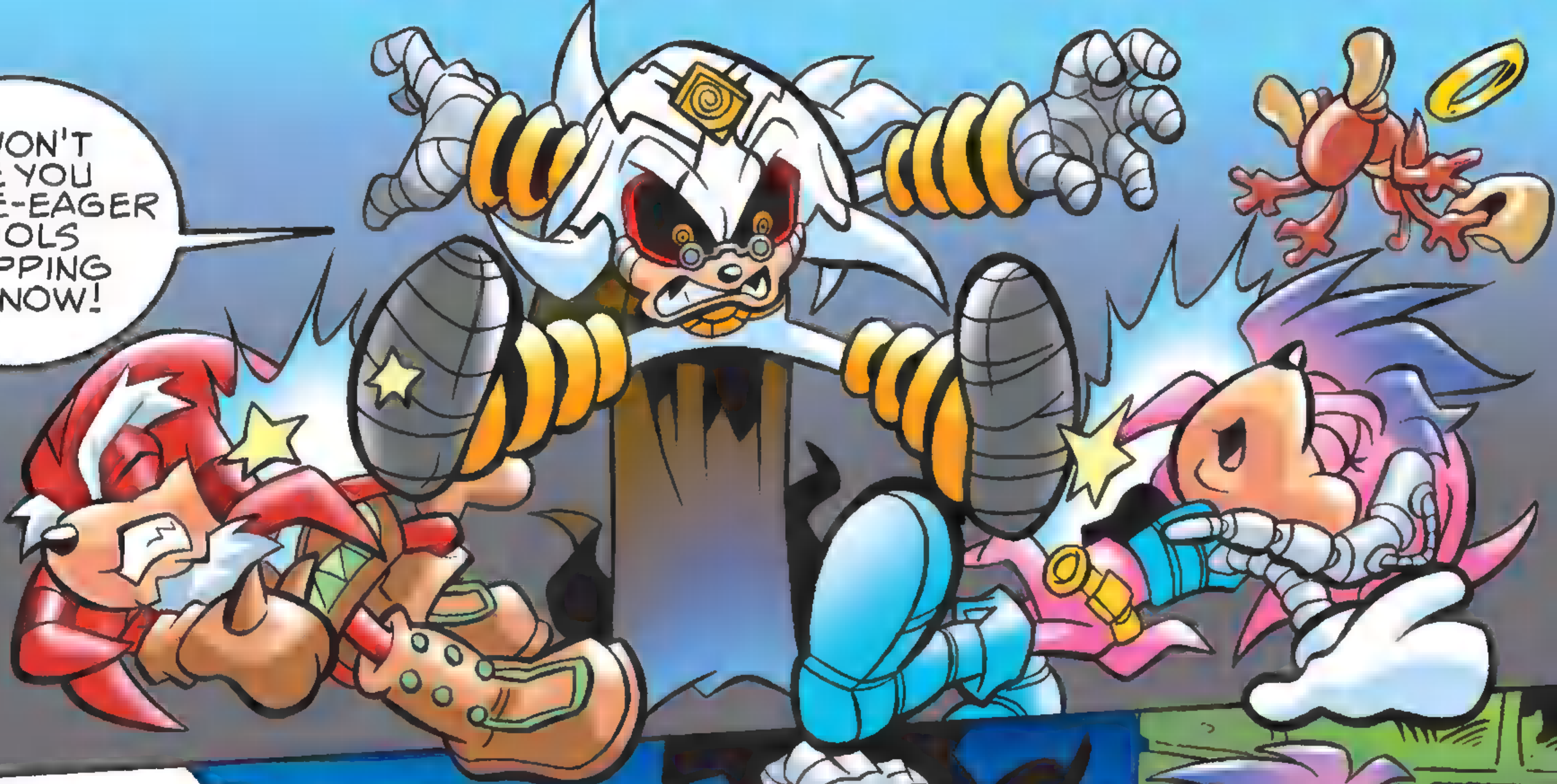


NO, OLD
FRIEND. HE
WILL NEED YOUR
COUNCIL. LET
ME SAVE MY
BOY.



PLEASE
UNDERSTAND...
HELP HIM UNDER-
STAND... I DID IT
TO PROTECT HIM
FROM A FUTURE
TERROR. I NEVER
WANTED TO
TURN HIM INTO
THAT **TERROR**.
I ONLY WANTED
TO KEEP HIM
SAFE.

I WON'T
HAVE YOU
GRAVE-EAGER
FOOLS
STOPPING
ME NOW!



A WORLD
THIS CORRUPT
MUST BE
**CLEANSED BY
FIRE!** YOUR SON
HAS THE **HONOR**
OF BEING THE
STARTING
EMBER!



IF YOU
ARE SO EAGER
TO DIE FIRST, I'D
BE HAPPY TO
OBLIGE!



G'DAY,
DOCTOR!
FANCY A
TRIP?

WHAT--?



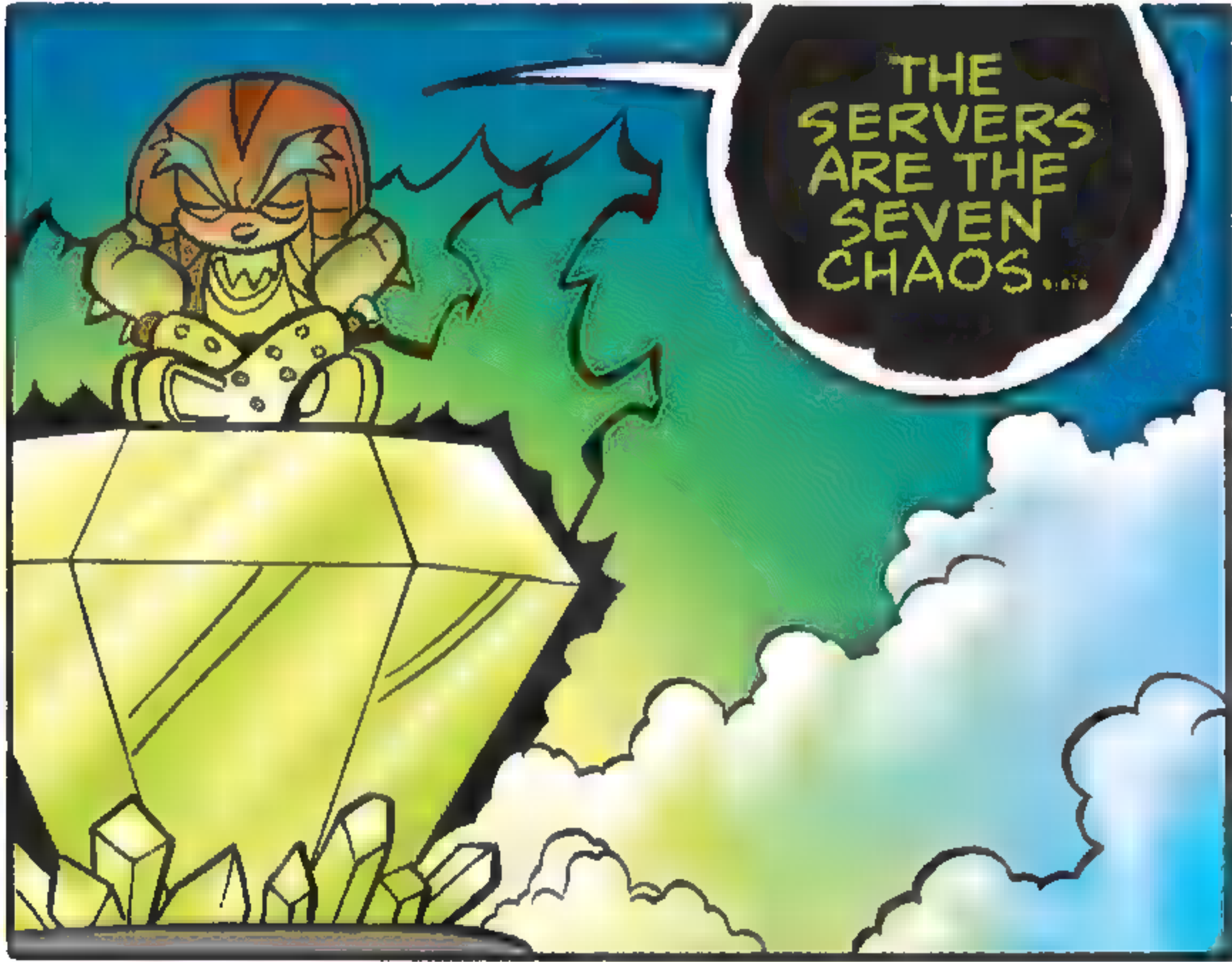
THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS HAD ITS REASONS FOR HOW WE RAISED THE NEXT GENERATION. WE ONLY WANTED TO PROTECT THOSE WE LOVED, EVEN IF WE HAD TO DO IT FROM AFAR.



I... UNDERSTAND. HE WILL, TOO.

THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO.

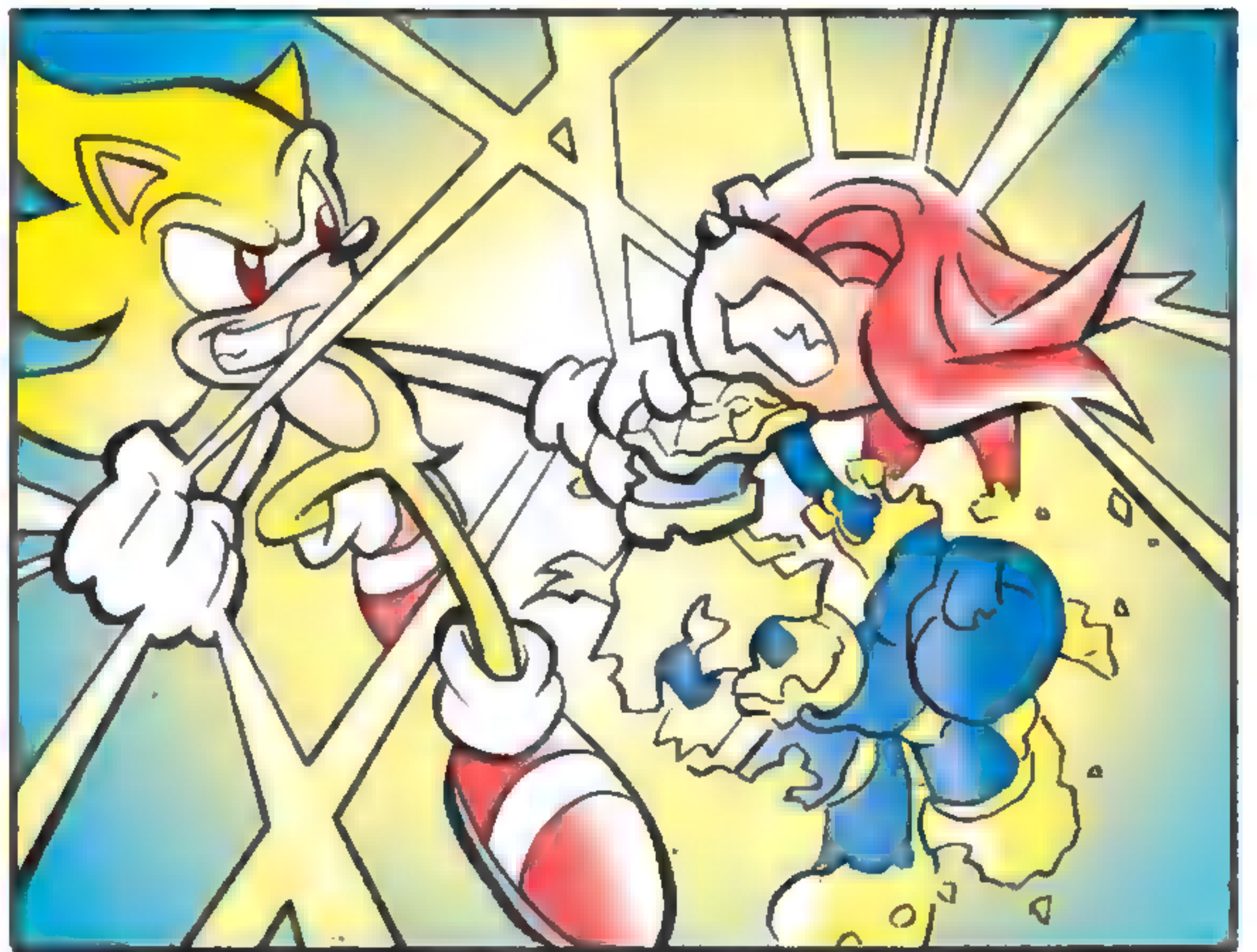




THE
SERVERS
ARE THE
SEVEN
CHAOS...



CHAOS
IS POWER,
ENRICHED
BY THE
HEART...

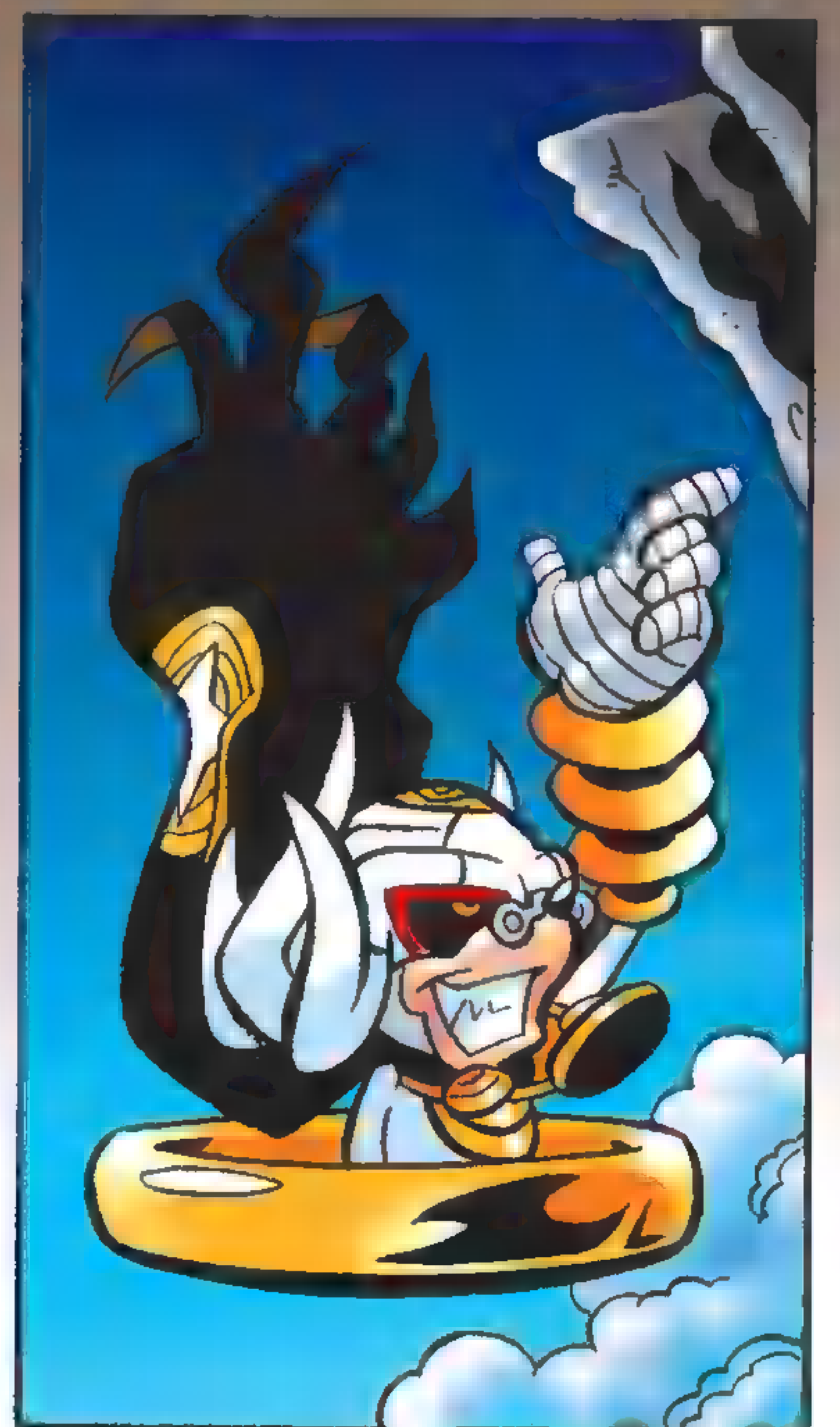


RELEASE MY
BOY! GIVE HIM
HIS OWN LIFE
TO LEAD!



EASY,
KNUX.
I'VE
GOT
YOU.







...KNUCKLES?
U/M...

LET'S GO
BACK DOWN TO
THE CITY. LET
EVERYONE KNOW
YOU'RE OKAY.

NO.



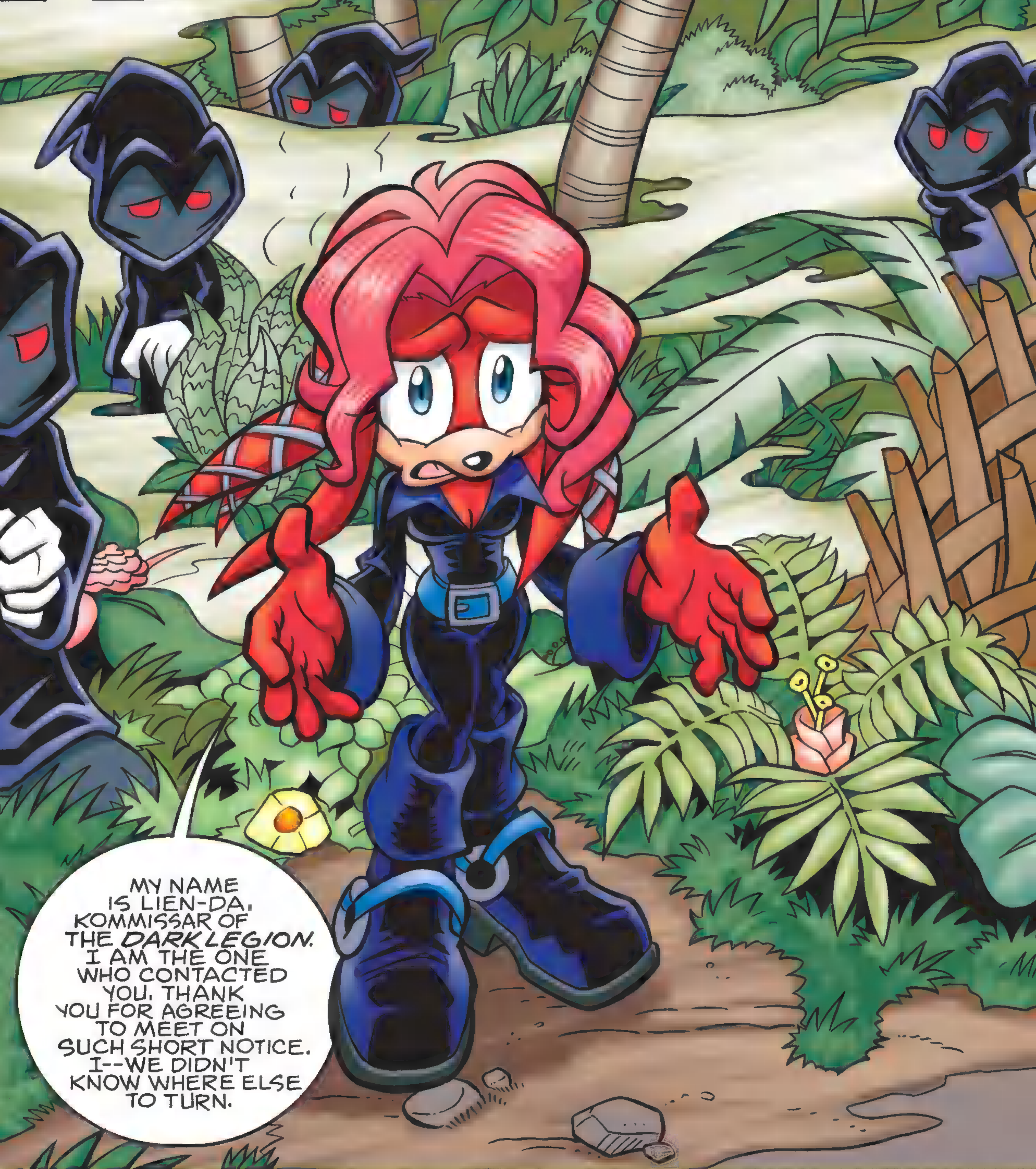
YOU GO
BACK IF YOU
WANT. I'M NEVER
MAKING THAT
MISTAKE
AGAIN.

I AM THE
LAST GUARDIAN
OF ANGEL ISLAND.
I WILL PROTECT
THE MASTER
EMERALD. AND
I WILL DO IT
ALONE IF I
HAVE TO.



SAY IT ISN'T SO,
KNUCKLES!
WILL OUR RED HERO
CHANGE HIS MIND?
ENERJAK HAS BEEN
VANQUISHED, BUT
WHAT NEW EVIL AWAITS?
TURN THE PAGE
TO FIND OUT!

AM I HUNG



Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: TRACY YARDLEY!
Inks: JIM AMASH • Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
Colors: STINGRAY GRAFIK WLIRKS



IT HASN'T BEEN A DAY SINCE ENERJAK RAVAGED MY PEOPLE,* HE USED HIS MAGIC TO REMOVE ALL OUR CYBERNETICS AND MAKE US COMPLETELY ...FLESH.

*AT THE BEGINNING OF THE EPIC IN STH #181.

HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, OUR ANCESTORS WERE FORCED INTO HIDING FOR OUR DEVOTION TO THE TECHNOLOGY THAT GAVE US OUR SUPREMACY.

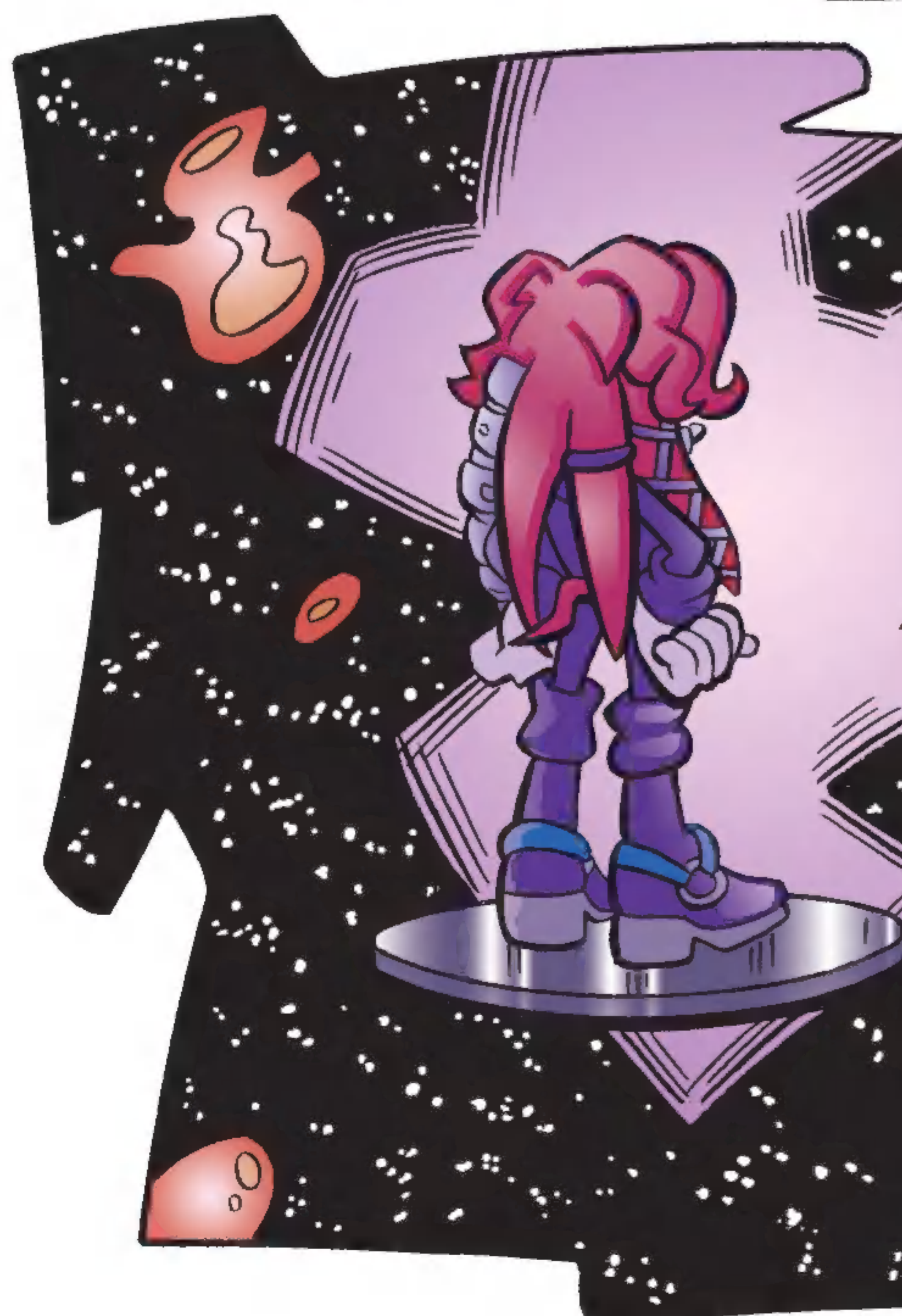
WE WERE DRIVEN INTO THE DARKNESS JUST SO WE COULD LAY CLAIM TO WHAT WAS RIGHTFULLY OURS.


WE ORGANIZED INTO A LEGION OF JUSTICE. WE FOUGHT AGAINST THE OPPRESSORS AND THEIR CHAMPION-- THE GUARDIAN...




...AND WE WERE EXILED TO ANOTHER ZONE, OUT OF SYNCH WITH THE NORMAL FLOW OF TIME, WE STRUGGLED TO SURVIVE IN THE BARREN VOID.

ONLY THROUGH THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS BANISHED DID WE SCOURGE A MEAGER LIFE AND MOUNT ATTACKS TO RECLAIM A SMALL HOLD IN OUR GREEN, WARM ISLAND.






OUR WAY OF LIFE
HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM
US. THE DARK LEGION
WILL DO **ANYTHING**
TO RECLAIM OUR
BIRTHRIGHT.

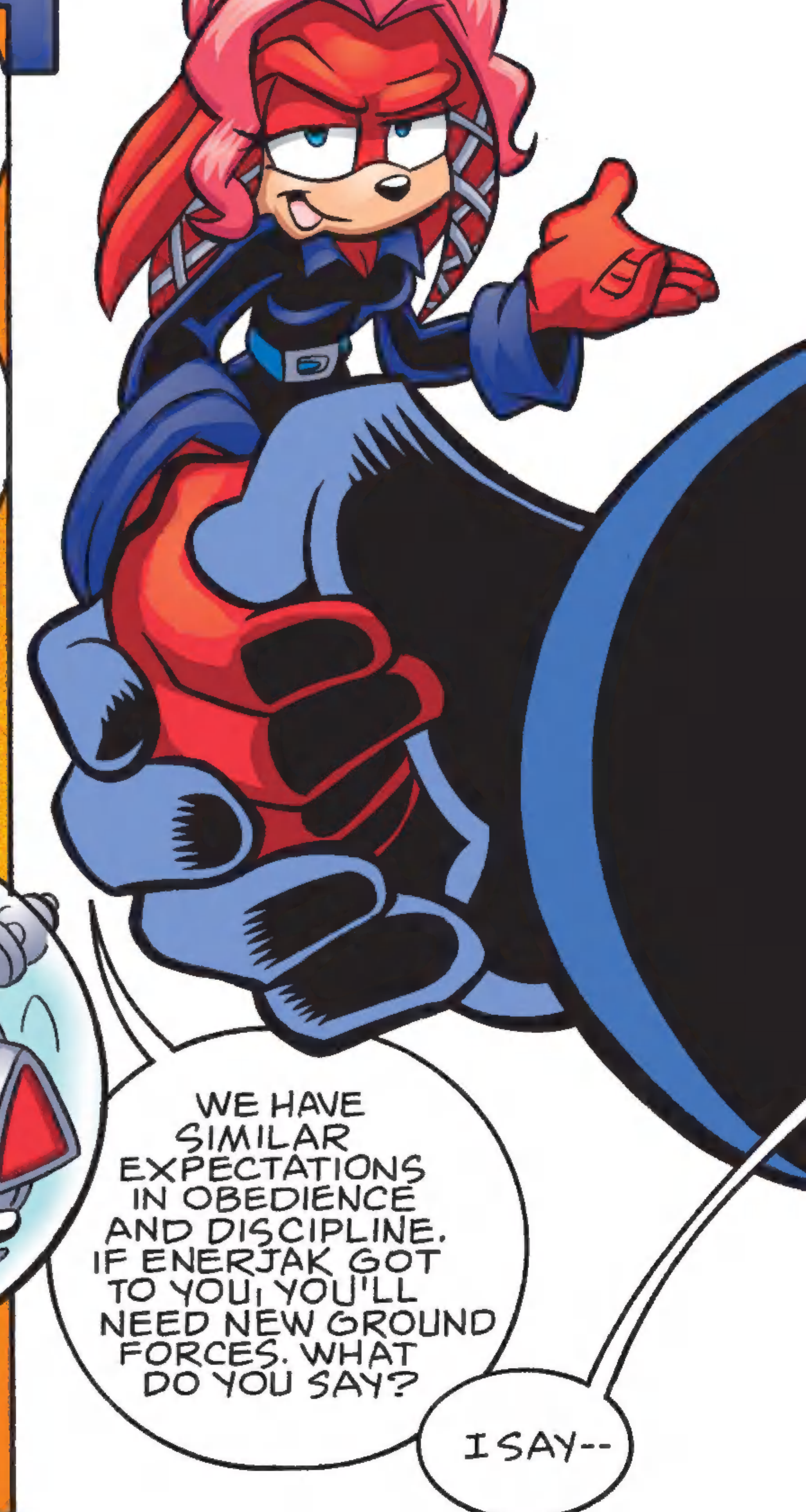


AND I WILL SEE TO IT
THAT THEY'RE LOYAL
TO YOU. JUST MAKE
ME **GRANDMASTER**
OF THE LEGION.
THEY'LL FOLLOW
ME, AND I WILL
FOLLOW YOU.



MY TIME AS
LEADER IS DUE.
MY LATE
BROTHER TOOK
COMMAND WHEN
OUR FATHER...
PASSED.

WHEN
GREAT-GREAT-
GRANDFATHER
DIMITRI
RETURNED, HE
ASSUMED
COMMAND
UNTIL HE
RAN.




WE HAVE
SIMILAR
EXPECTATIONS
IN OBEDIENCE
AND DISCIPLINE.
IF ENERJAK GOT
TO YOU, YOU'LL
NEED NEW GROUND
FORCES. WHAT
DO YOU SAY?

I SAY--

A large panel showing Dr. Eggman, a large red and black robot with a spiked orange quill, standing with his hands on his hips. Amy Rose, a pink hedgehog with a red ponytail, is standing next to him, looking up at him with a slight smile.


--WELCOME
TO THE
**EGGMAN
EMPIRE!**

A panel showing a large, grey, bullet-shaped ship with a red skull emblem on its side. In the foreground, a close-up of Dr. Eggman's face is shown, looking down with a serious expression.

RIGHT THIS WAY, MY
NEW DARK EGG LEGION!
I'LL SEE TO IT YOU
WON'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT THOSE NASTY,
SQUISHY INSIDES!

A large panel showing Dr. Eggman standing in a field, addressing a group of small, blue, robot-like minions. Amy Rose and Knuckles the Echidna are also present, looking at him with concerned expressions.

ARE YOU SURE
ABOUT THIS,
KOMMISSAR?

A close-up panel of Amy Rose's face. She has a shocked and angry expression, with wide eyes and an open mouth.

NO,
ACTUALLY.
THAT
POSITION'S
ALREADY
BEEN
FILLED.

IT WILL BE
WORTH IT. **TRUST
ME.** AND IT'S
"**GRANDMASTER**"
NOW.

WHAT?!
BY WHO?!



WHY,
YOUR DEAR
GRANDFATHER
DIMITRI! WHAT
CAN I SAY?
HE CAME TO
ME FIRST.

HELLO,
LIEN-DA, DEAR.
WELCOME
TO MY
LEGION.

VILLAINS HAVE UNITED!
What does this mean for Sonic and Knuckles?
Or is the next threat even WORSE?
Find out next month in **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #185!**
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